

SAUQUOIT VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Date of Meeting: May 14, 2024

Kind of Meeting: Budget & Regular Meeting

Presiding Officer: Mr. Anthony Nicotera, President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Members Present: Anthony Nicotera, Lynn Weibel, Patricia Collins, Judy Kentile, Cathy Pumilia and Mike Sacco.

Members Absent: Ronald Critelli.

Administration Present: David Stayton, Superintendent
Charles Cowen, Business Administration

Others Present: Staff & community members signed in.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Budget Presentation(s): Mr. Stayton began with a review of the mission statement the district refers to when making budgetary decisions to ensure actions will benefit students. He then detailed curricular programming, extracurricular offerings, 3-8 state testing results and explained how the students demonstrate academic progress in spite of the district's low per pupil expenditure. Mr. Stayton reviewed unfunded mandates, student community service experiences, and then began his discussion specific to the budget. The district's primary sources of funding are from state aid (nearly 60%) and tax revenue (34%). With the end of pandemic relief grants and a freeze to foundation aid, the district is experiencing a significant budget gap that they hope to help offset with a tax levy increase of 5.5%. This will help maintain academic supports in reading and math as well as an elementary/middle school counselor position. Mr. Stayton explained the anticipated impact of the tax levy increase to community members as well as a history of tax levy increases that were regularly supported by the budget votes. He reviewed areas where the district has already reduced spending and explained the fund balance history of the district. Lastly, he reviewed the highlights of the budget, the election for three open seats on the Board of Education, and the proposed purchase of two diesel school buses. The annual budget vote is May 21 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The district art show will be held in the high school library that night from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend and to cast their vote.

Board Candidates Comments:

1. Ronald P Critelli, Jr.: Mr. Ronald Critelli was unable to appear due to work. Mr. Stayton read his biography that can also be found in the News & Views. He described his history with Sauquoit as a resident, family member and as a board member for many years. He hopes to serve the Sauquoit Valley students, staff and district for another three year term for a solid education. He also would like people to come out and vote.
2. Mike Makuszak introduced himself. He has been a part of Sauquoit Valley all his life and cannot understand why there are few people volunteering and being a part of the school activities. He hopes to change that. His experience working with people, contracts and government through his jobs including Verizon, will be an addition to the Board. He feels that with his experience and knowledge of Sauquoit he hopes to better the district. The last goal if elected is to make sure programs within the school will benefit all students. Many work towards a college degree but there are many who can work toward a trade so he wants to provide support for all student pathways.
3. Mike Sacco stated that he is not originally from Sauquoit Valley but has been on the Board for several years. It is nice to give another perspective view whether it is good or not, but it is nice to be on a board that one can voice their views, change their perspective and accomplish goals that everyone on the board agrees to for the best of the students.

Committee Reports: Mr. Stayton touched on several committees.

- Technology: The committee met on May 1. Instructional Technology Coach (ITC) Melissa Leone stated that they meet monthly to determine how to best serve staff. In late summer they will plan for Superintendent Conference Day offerings in September. Laura Hoffman explained the process to initiate the new website; she now wants to update the community pages (SVFAB, Sports Boosters, Clayville Library, etc.). Keith Kempney detailed the smart bond funds now used for tech training, software, and support. Training will soon focus on emerging artificial intelligence software. Internet Protocol phones will be installed in the district this summer. Joe Corleto's programs will feature a technology showcase by the end of the year detailing their courses. His classes participate each year in a technology showcase competition at MVCC, typically in March.
- Policy: Policy committee met on April 16 and the revisions/reviews are presented tonight for approval. They will meet again on June 4.
- Board Operations Relationships Developments is schedule to meet June 11.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Stayton gave a report on the sporting events. The girls' golf team defeated New Hartford CSD last night. The boys' tennis team lost a regional team competition against Mt. Markham. The tennis regional singles tournament will be held on Monday. The boys' baseball team has won several close games recently. The boys' and girls' track teams were currently competing on campus in the CSC Championships.

Old Business: Mr. Stayton gave an overview of the following upcoming events that are being held on campus.

- May 17 Kickin' Out 24 kickball tournament
- May 21 School budget vote, district art show and BOE meeting
- May 24 - 28 Memorial Day weekend/unused snow days (no school)
- May 29 American Red Cross blood drive
- May 31 Middle school dance

New Business: Mr. Anthony Nicotera stated that action 8.1 to 8.23 will be read as a consent motion and take one vote. If there are any questions or comments, members can do so prior to vote or pull a motion for further discussion.

Before the vote Mr. Stayton spoke of Mrs. Cheryl Richard's time served at the school district. She was a great addition and pleasure to work with. He wished her the best. Motion 8.10 effective date has been changed to the 15th of May so she can start substituting earlier.

Motion 8.13 was discussed among the board members to start the remaining two (2) meetings at 6:00 p.m.

Resolution No. 78: made by Mr. Mike Sacco, and seconded by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia,

- that upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and a majority vote of the Board of Education, tenure be given to the following administrator subject to the successful completion of the probationary period: Charlie Cowen, Business Administrator, in the School Administrator Tenure Area in the Sauquoit Valley Central School District, effective September 27, 2024. Mr. Cowen has received NYS School District Business Leader (Professional Certifications).
- that upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, and a majority vote of the Board of Education, tenure be given to the following teacher subject to the successful completion of the probationary period. Mrs. Carli Mancino, elementary tenure area, effective September 2, 2024. Mrs. Mancino has initial certifications in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) and in Childhood Education (grade 1-6).
- that upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, and a majority vote of the Board of Education, tenure be given to the following teacher subject to the successful completion of the probationary period. Mrs. Nicole Becker, elementary tenure area, effective September 2, 2024. Mrs. Becker has professional certification in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) and Childhood Education (grades 1-6).
- that upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, and a majority vote of the Board of Education, tenure be given to the following teacher subject to the successful completion of the probationary period.

Mrs. Sarah Camacho, teacher tenure area, effective October 31, 2024. Mrs. Camacho has initial certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-Grade 6).

- that upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, and a majority vote of the Board of Education, tenure be given to the following teacher assistant subject to the successful completion of the probationary period. Mrs. Gianna Giruzzi, teacher assistant tenure area, effective September 2, 2024. Mrs. Giruzzi has Teacher Assistant, Level II certification.
- that upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, and a majority vote of the Board of Education, tenure be given to the following guidance counselor subject to the successful completion of the probationary period. Mrs. Natalie DeTraglia, guidance counselor tenure area, effective September 30, 2024. Mrs. DeTraglia has School Counselor, permanent certification.
- to appoint Morgan Mielnick as a long-term substitute teacher in middle school, effective May 13, 2024 until the end of the 2023/2024 academic year.
- resolve, to approve the retirement of Cheryl Richards as Office Specialist, 1, effective June 30, 2024.
- to appoint Cheryl Richards as a per diem substitute Data Processor, I and Office Specialist 1, effective July 8, 2024.
- to appoint Paige Luke as a substitute teacher, effective May 15, 2024.
- to appoint Jane Alamond as a substitute bus driver, effective May 15, 2024.
- to approve Tiffany Lupia to mentor for internship under Mark Putnam, Principal toward her administrative degree.
- that the Board of Education meetings start time be at 6:00 p.m. in the high school for the remainder of the 2023/24 regular board meetings.
- to approve the revised/reviewed policies listed below:
 - a) 1026 Pet Policy
 - b) 7014 Admission of Non-Residence Students
 - c) 7014.1 Non-Resident Enrollment Application (New)
 - d) 7063.1 Extra-curricular Eligibility Contract
 - e) 7601.1 Initial Concussion Evaluation
 - f) 7601.2 Physician Concussion Evaluation
 - g) 8100 Grade Placement Retention and Promotion (New)
- to ratify the agreement with the Sauquoit Valley Teacher's Association covering the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2027 (Retirement Incentive).
- **WHEREAS**, it is the plan of a number of PUBLIC-SCHOOL DISTRICTS and the MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES ("the BOCES") during the 2024-2025 school year to bid jointly for the purchase of various types of computers and technology commodities (the "Commodities"); and

WHEREAS, the Sauquoit Valley School District (the School District”) is desirous of participating in the joint bidding of the Commodities as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education has received and reviewed the Cooperative Bid Procedures (“the Procedures”) governing its right and responsibilities should it elect to participate in the joint bidding of commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Cooperative Bid Procedures the Board of Education agrees to award bid purchase item purchases according to the recommendation of the BOCES if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

- to approve the BOCES contract for Rental of Facilities (1 classroom) to commence on July 1, 2024 and expire June 30, 2025.
- to approve the agreement with BOCES for rental of 6 classrooms commencing on September 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2025.
- to approve the agreement with BOCES for ancillary services associated with students with disabilities commencing on September 1, 2024 and expiring on June 30, 2025.
- that the minutes of the April 16, 2024 regular meeting be approved.
- that authorization be given regarding the payment of bills approved by the claims auditor dated April 18, 2024 and May 8, 2024.
- that the Board of Education upon completion of its review of the IEP in accordance with Section 200 .4 D2 of the regulations of the commissioner agrees to arrange for appropriate special education programs and services for students numbered 1401660, 1401874, 1401875, 14011752, 1401871, 1401414, 1401124, 1401261, 1401780, 1401790, 1401655, 1401870, 1401221, 1400545, 1401251, 1401535, 1400084, 1400503, 1401785, 1401661, 1401874, 1401796, 1401875, 1401875, 1401752, 1401871, 1401651, 1401867, 1401661, 1401790, 1401655, 1401870, and 1401711 as recommended by the committee on special education and by the committee on preschool special education.
- to approve Caleb Pope as a per diem substitute laborer, effective May 2, 2024.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0

Resolution No. 79: made by Ms. Lynn Weibel, and seconded by Mr. Mike Sacco,

- that the results of April 16, 2024 Clayville vote be recorded as follows:

| Proposition #001 | YES | NO | VOID | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----|----|------|-------|
| \$89,775.00 | 82 | 12 | 1 | 95 |

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Miscellaneous Topics: Mr. Mike Sacco praised and gave gratitude to Charlie Cowen on his work and knowledge with numbers to help with the school's budget. Mr. Anthony Nicotera and Ms. Lynn Weibel chimed in and thanked Charlie Cowen as well.

Mr. Anthony Nicotera reminded the Board Members to get their evaluations on the superintendent back him so they can discuss the superintendent's contract at a board meeting in June.

Public to be Heard: Mr. Pete Madden spoke on Mrs. Cheryl Richard's retirement. He praised her for all her years of service at Sauquoit Valley. She started out as a lunch monitor, aide and then his secretary (Office Specialist, I). She will be hard to replace. It was a pleasure working with her.

Mrs. Colleen Luczak spoke of the art show which is scheduled for May 21. It is usually held in the elementary building but wanted everyone to note the change. It will be held in the high school library from 5pm until 7pm. Please stop in and see the students' art work.

Ticket was drawn for a winner for attending the meeting.

Executive Session: There was none.

Resolution No. 80: made by Ms. Judy Kentile and seconded by Mrs. Cathy Pumilia

- that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0.

Sincerely submitted,



Marie Goodman
Board Clerk